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OLC 73-0561

14 May 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Guy McConnell, Senate Appropriations Committee Staff, and Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, on the Director's Testimony Before the Senate Armed Services Committee on 11 May 1973

1. Today I called Guy McConnell and Frank Slatinshek to inform them of a matter which came up in the Director's appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee Friday afternoon. I told them we were anxious to try to keep everyone as up-to-date as possible on developments in the Director's testimony.

2. I said that in answer to detailed questioning about the so-called "McCord memorandum," alleging the existence of a plot to establish the Watergate entry as a CIA operation, the Director had indicated there was some evidence to indicate that this idea was at least discussed as one of the possible alternatives.

3. He also mentioned contacts or requests made to him and to General Walters by members of the White House staff, all of which were turned down; i.e., a request to Mr. Schlesinger from John Dean that we withdraw the material we had provided to the FBI on the Watergate case; a contact by H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman with General Walters to try to get the FBI to "slow down its investigation" in order to [redacted]; and subsequent requests from John Dean to [redacted] General Walters suggesting that Agency funds be used to make payments to the Watergate defendants, etc. I indicated that in all instances these requests were refused, but pointed out that the Director wanted the other committee chairmen to be aware of this line of discussion at Friday afternoon's hearing.

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4. Frank Slatinshek made reference to his conversation with

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[redacted] indicating that the Committee wanted Ambassador Helms,

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[redacted] to appear before the Nedzi Subcommittee.

In response to his questions, I told Slatinshek we understood Mr. Helms would be in town some time this afternoon, but as far as I knew he had no firm date for appearance before any of the committees, although all the committees we have briefed have indicated their desire to have him appear. Slatinshek said he wanted to make it clear he was requesting Mr. Helms' availability "at his earliest opportunity." I said I would pass this message on and [redacted] would be in further contact with him to pick up the transcripts of Friday morning's session and to discuss other details.

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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